

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

Modern Foreign Languages options

Introduction

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an engaging and meaningful way for learners to extend their studies in new directions, developing a deeper understanding of content within and beyond the curriculum. It helps develop important academic study skills for higher education and employment skills for the world of work.

We have had some enquiries from Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teachers as well as other language specialists around developing EPQ titles and projects to complement A level MFL studies and provide an assessed course for languages that are not offered as an A level.

In response to these questions and enquiries, we have asked our senior examining team and MFL teachers to think about how the four units could be used for further language studies.

The Project

The Level 3 EPQ provides opportunities for the development of critical, reflective and problem-solving skills through the planning, research and evaluation of a self-selected topic. Students also develop independent learning skills that lay down excellent foundations for when they go into further education or the world of work. The EPQ also offers an alternative progression route to year 13, for subjects that do not have a GCSE or AS level.

All of the details and requirements for the qualification as well as a wealth of support material can be found on our qualifications website [here](#) and our Future Ready website [here](#). Following their in-depth study, students are asked to produce one of the following four project outcomes:

1. A dissertation
2. An investigation/field study
3. A performance
4. An artefact.

The main element across all four outcomes is that **all work submitted for assessment must be produced in English**. However, the research and study can be undertaken in any language.

The Project and MFL topics

If the project is being used to complement A level MFL teaching and learning, the topics can be inspired by some of the work carried out in preparation for the A level. It can also be used for students to explore the cultural heritage of their own or other people in their community, as well as allowing students to pursue an interest or passion outside of the curriculum.

Below are some ideas for topics for each of the project outcomes but the opportunities are much more wide reaching and can be adapted to your own students' interests.

Unit 1 – Dissertation

The unit allows students to plan, research, analyse information and then evaluate and review the project. The findings and recommendations will then be presented by the student to a selected audience.

Ideas for MFL could include:

1. Has French cinema been a major influence on the world stage? (An extension from an A Level study of one film)
2. Is Colombian Spanish a better dialect than other forms?
3. Is the culture of Berlin unique?
4. What is the best explanation for the influence of Flaubert on modern literature?
5. Why do the French, as a society, have longer life expectancies? (Sociology)
6. Have we under-estimated the extent to which English is German? (From A Level English Language)
7. Is Catalan a form of Spanish? (for example, if a student wished to dig deeper into Hispanic studies and possibly take Catalan *ab initio* at university)
8. How significant was the role of Polish airmen serving in England during World War II?

Unit 2 – Investigation/Field Study

This unit allows students to explore a research question or test a hypothesis using methods of data collection and analysis. Data collection techniques can include primary research in the form of experiments, field studies or surveys. Unanalysed data sets from published sources of data can also be used as a starting point for investigative analysis. Typically, an Investigation / Field Study will include a testable hypothesis.

Ideas for MFL could include:

1. What trends can be seen in the use of slang words by modern day German teenagers?
2. What do Spanish people eat? (a questionnaire study to find out)
3. How many words do Inuit have for snow? (literature review of dictionaries and linguistic articles)
4. How do young people in Qatar perceive the 2022 World Cup? (questionnaire and interview project)

Unit 3 – Performance

This unit allows students to produce a performance for an audience as well as provide written evidence to accompany the performance that will outline their research and evaluation of the performance. They then present the outcomes of the project to an audience.

Ideas for MFL could include:

1. To use existing performance repertoire, for example plays, music, dance or choreography.
This could be illustrated in examples such as:
 - a. Italian – Commedia D’el Arte
 - b. French – Genet’s *The Maid*
 - c. Spanish – Lorca plays
 - d. Russian – Chekhov
2. A language ‘experience’ – for example an immersive workshop or performance/ experience (in person or virtual) exploring language, culture or customs.
3. A lesson or talk on an aspect of the country relating to the language, for example a ‘history of...’. This could include culture, customs or food and drink.
4. A teaching workshop for an aspect of performance, for example, matching a theatre studies ‘audience’ to a Kabuki or Noh (Japanese theatre practice) workshop.

Unit 4 – Artefact

This unit allows students to plan, research, develop and evaluate the production of an artefact. The artefact may take many forms, including a finished working prototype, model, artwork or design. Students also need to provide written evidence to accompany their artefact, which outlines their research and evaluation of the process.

Ideas for MFL could include:

1. self-published book of new translations of poems
2. short story set in specific time and/or overseas location
3. teaching resources for a targeted age group – hard copy or digital format, including an app design
4. short film in the style of a relevant director
5. documentary about any aspect of the country’s culture
6. visual arts response to any aspect of cultural life or social issues
7. architectural design to address specific issues within a country or neighbourhood

If you would like to register your interest in the Extended Project Qualification or find out more information about how to start on a MFL focused title, please [contact us](#).